

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

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R 282206Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 7063

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 17502 ACTION SECSTATE JCRC CAMP
SAMAE SAN THAILAND DTD 21 AUG

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 17502

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: NOTES FROM A LAO PRISON

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK VIENTIANE AUG 19 FM UDORN
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

UDORN 681 (DTG 190933Z AUG 75)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: NOTES FROM A LAO PRISON

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH ROSEMARY CONWAY AFTER SHE ARRIVED
IN UDORN PROVIDED SOME POINTS OF INTEREST ON HER CON-
FINEMENT IN VIENTIANE.

2. ONE NIGHT SHE HEARD PATHET LAO IN THE NEXT ROOM
TALKING ABOUT HER POSSIBLY BEING SENT TO TCHEPONE,
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"WHERE THE OTHER AMERICANS ARE." ON ANOTHER OCCASION

SHE HEARD THE NAME "CONNELLY" MENTIONED IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT AMERICAN PILOTS.

3. A PL SERGEANT TOLD HER THAT THERE WAS AN AMERICAN PRISONER AT LUANG PRABANG.

4. SHE WAS REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED ABOUT "JOHN EMERSON" (REPORTEDLY A TEACHER) AND "MR. HUXLEY" WHOM THE INTERROGATORS SAID WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED PLOT TO LURE LAO T-28 PILOTS TO DEFECT TO THAILAND.

5. SHE WAS FED TWICE A DAY WITH FRENCH BREAD AND THIN SLICES OF PORK SAUSAGE. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE UNBALANCED DIET SHE DEVELOPED A FEVER AND A HEADACHE, WHICH LASTED A MONTH. FINALLY, TWO OR THREE WEEKS BEFORE HER RELEASE, SHE BEGAN TO VOMIT, WHICH PANICKED HER GUARDS. THEY CALLED IN A DOCTOR. AFTER THE DOCTOR'S VISIT SHE WAS GIVEN C-RATIONS EVERY FOUR DAYS. THEN THE BASIC DIET WAS SWITCHED FROM BREAD TO STICKY RICE WITH VEGETABLES AND MORE FREQUENT C-RATIONS. THE LAST WEEK SHE GOT C-RATIONS EVERY DAY. SHE ESTIMATES THAT SHE GOT ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF THE C-RATIONS THAT THE EMBASSY SENT; THE GUARDS ATE THE REST. OTHER PRISONERS (LAO) RECEIVED OUTSIDE FOOD FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS EVERY DAY.

6. SHE WAS NOT FED ALL DAY ON FIVE OCCASIONS. ONCE SHE WAS KEPT WITHOUT WATER FOR ALMOST TWO DAYS. SEVERAL TIMES SHE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM ALL DAY. A TRIP TO THE BATHROOM WAS ALSO HER ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO REFILL HER QUART BOTTLE OF DRINKING WATER. FOUR TIMES SHE WAS BEATEN BY GUARDS.

7. IT SEEMED TO HER THAT THE HARSHNESS OF HER TREATMENT SPRANG MORE FROM THE GUARDS THEMSELVES THAN FROM ANY OFFICIAL POLICY. THREE OF HER BEATINGS CAME A DAY OR TWO AFTER INTERROGATION SESSIONS IN WHICH SHE REFUSED TO SIGN A CONFESSION. THE GUARDS' MEANNESS ALSO INCREASED AFTER THEY HAD READ THE PL NEWSPAPER THEY GOT PERIODICALLY.

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8. MS. CONWAY SAID THE WORST ASPECT OF THE EXPERIENCE, THOUGH, WAS THE FACT THAT SHE HAD NO MOSQUITO NET FOR THE FIRST MONTH, UNTIL THE EMBASSY SENT ONE. BECAUSE OF THE MOSQUITOES SHE COULD NOT SLEEP.

9. DESPITE ALL SHE WENT THROUGH, MEDICAL TESTS IN UDORN SHOWED NO ILL EFFECTS OTHER THAN BEING SLIGHTLY

ANEMIC. BIGELOW
WHITEHOUSE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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